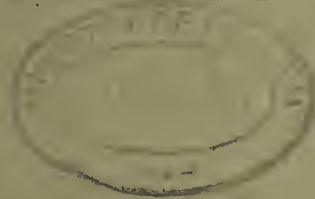


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Urban District Council of Ince-in-Makerfield.



**A**NUAL REPORT  
..... FOR 1925 .....

of the

Medical Officer of Health



G. H. Potter,

*Medical Officer of Health.*



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# Ince-in-Makerfield Urban District Council.

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*TO THE SANITARY COMMITTEE,*

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary circumstances of the District during the year 1925.

## 1.—NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area.....2,320 acres.

Population (Census 1921) 22,865.  
Estimated 1925 : 24,450.

No. of Inhabited Houses (Census 1921) 4,361.

No. of families or separate occupiers (Census 1921)  
4,409.

Rateable Value.....£104,909.

Sum represented by a penny rate (approx.) £437.

Local subsidences due to Coal working have been in the past numerous, but the district is in nearly all parts now approaching stability. These subsidences have been a constant source of trouble in connection with the drainage of the district, and have led to the collection of much casual water in various large pools. The chief occupation is Coal-getting, though now many of the miners travel outside the district to their work. One large Steel works, Wagon building Engineering and Railway work are also represented, while two Spinning Mills represent the Cotton Industry.

There is no evidence to show that the Colliers' work is injurious to health, arduous and trying as it undoubtedly is, and there are many men of well over 50 years old working daily underground. Rheumatism, Sciatica and Bronchitis seem to be the chief enemies of the Collier in his late years, while Phthisis is, if anything, less common than the average.

# VITAL STATISTICS.

## TABLE A.

				PER 1,000 OF POPULATION.			Rate of Deaths under 1 year to 1,000 births
				Birth-rate	Death-rate	Death rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	
Mean of Five years—							
1895—1899	...	...	...	39.9	22.4	0.53	211
1900—1904	..	...	...	39.3	22.1	0.56	208
1905—1909	...	...	...	35.3	19.1	0.65	191
1910—1914	...	...	...	33.9	18.9	0.74	159
1915—1919	...	...	...	26.7	17.6	1.05	128
1920—1924	...	...	...	26.4	13.9	0.80	119
Year 1924	...	...	...	23.0	14.8	0.89	151
Year 1925	...	...	...	20.9	13.3	0.40	136
Increase or decrease in 1925 on—							
Mean of five years 1920-1924				—5.5	—0.6	—0.40	+17
Previous year				—2.1	—1.5	—0.49	—15

Out of the total of 512 Births, 17 were illegitimate :—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate Births in 1925	252	243	495
Illegitimate Births in 1925	8	9	17
			512

During the year 1925 there were no deaths among women in, or in consequence of, childbirth.

Deaths of infants under one year of age : Legitimate 67, Illegitimate 3, Total 70.

The figures in the above Table, show very remarkably the steady fall in the Birth Rate during the last 30 years, and the Birth Rate in 1925 is the lowest on record for the district, being 20.9, although even so, this figure is above that for the whole of England : 18.3.

The Death Rate is also steadily being reduced, while the Infant Mortality Rate, although lower than in 1924, is higher than the average of the last 5 years.

The Table below shows these Rates for ten years' back and averages for the same period.

## TABLE B.

Year	Death Rate (all causes)	Birth Rate	Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 Births.
1915	20.0	30.8	146
1916	16.4	28.1	143
1917	14.7	24.0	109
1918	20.5	25.3	111
1919	15.7	25.4	129
1920	14.4	32.2	135
1921	13.8	30.2	101
1922	14.0	23.9	103
1923	12.7	22.9	108
1924	14.8	23.0	151
Average for 10 years—1915—1924	15.7	26.5	123
1925	13.3	20.9	136

The causes of the Deaths among Infants under one year, are shown in the Table given below.

TABLE C.  
ANALYSIS OF INFANT DEATHS.

CAUSE OF DEATH—	Total at all periods up to 1 year	Under 1 month	1—3 months	4—6 months	7—9 months	10—11 months
Marasmus—	9	—	5	3	—	1
Premature Birth—	10	9	1	—	—	—
Weakness from Birth—	5	4	1	—	—	—
Congenital Deformity—	2	1	—	—	1	—
Convulsions—	3	—	—	—	2	1
Bronchitis and Broncho Pneumonia—	24	—	7	3	6	8
Measles and Whooping Cough—	4	—	1	1	1	1
Gastro Enteritis—	7	2	2	1	1	1
Various Causes—	6	3	—	1	—	2
	<u>70</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>14</u>

It will be noticed that 19 deaths occurred in the first month of life, and that 24 out of the 70 deaths were due to Bronchitis or Pneumonia.

Finally, in the subjoined Table are shown the chief causes of death and number of deaths from each cause, in 1925, as compared with the previous year.

TABLE D.

CAUSE OF DEATH—	No. of Deaths 1925	No. of Deaths 1924
Typhoid Fever—	... 1	... 0
Measles—	... 3	... 32
Whooping Cough—	... 3	... 6
Diphtheria—	... 3	... 0
Scarlet Fever—	... 0	... 0
Influenza—	... 6	... 18
Encephalitis Lethargica—	... 3	... 0
Phthisis—	... 10	... 22
Other Tubercular Disease—	... 7	... 0
Cancer : Malignant Disease—	... 19	... 21
Rheumatic Fever—	... 4	... 0
Heart Disease—	... 37	... 14
Bronchitis—	... 46	... 51
Pneumonia—	... 54	... 52
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)—	... 13	... 13
Puerperal Sepsis & Parturition—	... 0	... 0
Suicide—	... 0	... 0
Accident—	... 13	... 9
Other Diseases—	... 105	... 0
TOTAL...	... <u>327</u>	... <u>364</u>



During 1925, 516 cases were given Poor Law Relief in the township, the sum of £7,144 1 6 being expended by the Guardians. The approximate number of cases who received gratuitous medical relief only, was 117.

## 2.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

### *PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.*

Medical Officer of Health—G. H. POTTER, M.B., D.P.H. (part time).

Sanitary Inspector—WILLIAM THORPE, San. Insp. Cert.; and Meat Insp. Cert. (whole time)

### *HEALTH VISITORS AND NURSES—*

NURSE QUARMBY. Whole time Health Visitor.

NURSE GLOVER. Part time (one-third) Health Visitor, and part time (two-thirds) School Nurse.

NURSE PLUMPTON. Whole time School Nurse.

### *HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION PROVIDED OR AVAILABLE—*

In the Isolation Hospital (East Ward) 13 beds are provided for infectious cases, while in case of emergency, infectious cases can also be sent to Abram or Wigan Isolation Hospitals, by arrangement without the payment of any retaining fee.

10 beds are provided for Smallpox cases in a special pavilion in the grounds of the Isolation hospital.

No special accommodation is made within the district for Maternity cases, nor for children, nor Tuberculosis, but cases of these classes receive attention at the Wigan Infirmary, and Children's Cases are also often referred to Liverpool and Manchester hospitals.

No Day Nursery is in existence within the District, nor is there any Institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children.

There is a County Clinic for Tuberculosis in Wigan, and a Venereal Diseases Clinic at the Wigan Infirmary. There is no Union Infirmary nor any other Public Institution in the District, and parish cases are dealt with at Billinge Poor Law Infirmary.

A Child Welfare Centre is established at the Council Offices (East Ward), a central position, and is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2 to 4 p.m.



A School Clinic is provided as part of the School Medical Service.

There is no provision by the Council or by any other body for District Nursing.

No midwives are employed or assisted by the Local Authority. There are 5 Midwives on the Register, actually resident and practising in the district, and their number may be considered sufficient.

#### AMBULANCE FACILITIES—

Infectious Cases are removed to Hospital in the Council's own horse ambulance.

Non-infectious and Accident Cases are dealt with by two horse ambulances (one belonging to the Council, and the other to the Police) and by the Wigan motor ambulance.

#### LEGISLATION IN FORCE—

With the exception of the Ince Water Act 1872, there are no local Acts or Orders. The clauses of the general adoptive Acts are in force, and bye-laws, dated 1909, deal with Common Lodging Houses, Houses let in Lodgings, Offensive Trades, Streets and Buildings, Cleansing of Pavements, etc.

### 3.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

#### WATER SUPPLY—

The two sources of the Water Supply are the Council's own Deep Wells at Golborne, and the Rivington Reservoirs belonging to the Liverpool Corporation. Supply is constant, sufficient, and good, and the possibilities of contamination very slight.

Approximately 4,340 dwelling-houses are supplied directly, and 21 by Stand pipe.

#### SCAVENGING AND HOUSE REFUSE REMOVAL—

This work is carried out by the Sanitary Authority. Privy middens and ash-bins are emptied regularly, throughout the year, by day, and 1 motor and 6 horse drawn vehicles are engaged in removal of the refuse to tips.

There is no Destructor in the district.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE—

The drainage system is the usual type,—storm water and sewage carried away in a common sewer.

At the Sewage Works Bacterial Filter Beds are in use, and no outstanding development has taken place during the year. No area of the district is without drainage, and drain testing, flushing, etc., is carried out as required.

No action has been required with regard to the pollution of streams.

## CLOSET ACCOMMODATION AT THE END OF 1925—

Number of Privy Middens ... ..	972.
Number of Pail Closets ... ..	72.
Number of Fresh Water Closets ... ..	1539.
Number of Waste Water Closets ... ..	2.
Number of Closets attached to Privy Middens	1996.
Number of Dry Ashpits (excluding Middens)	56.
Number of Portable Receptacles for Refuse	1084.

During the last five years 81 Privy Closets have been converted to Fresh Water Closets, 25 of these conversions being done in 1925, and out of a five years' total of 97, 30 houses have been provided during 1925 with a movable ashbin in place of a fixed receptacle. The definite policy of a General Conversion Scheme to deal with privies at the conversion rate of 500 per year, is under Council consideration, and is a matter requiring urgent attention in regard to the public health of the district.

In new property, the Closet accommodation provided is fresh water closet, exclusively.

## NUISANCES—

No legal proceedings were necessary during 1925.

Number of premises visited ... ..	640.
Number of nuisances discovered ...	979.
Number of nuisances abated ... ..	979.
Number of Informal Notices served	237.
Number of Statutory Notices served	7.

## CANAL BOATS—

42 Canal Boats have been inspected during the year, and out of this number only 2 minor infringements of the Acts were found, which were at once rectified on the representation of the Sanitary Inspector.

## OFFENSIVE TRADES—

There are none in the district.

## COMMON LODGING HOUSES—

There are none in the district.

## WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES—

There are 76 of these in the district, and inspection has shown their condition to be quite satisfactory.

## SCHOOLS—

The sanitary condition of the Schools in the district is quite satisfactory.

## 4.—HOUSING.

During 1925. 5 new houses have been erected in the District, and in 3 cases out of the 5, State Assistance has been applied for, under the Housing Acts, by the Local Authority.

## INSPECTION—

Dwelling houses inspected under Public Health Acts ... 326.

Dwelling houses inspected under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910...176.

Dwelling houses found not in all respects fit for human habitation ... 332.

## ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS— (Under Public Health Acts).

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served, requiring defects to be remedied ... 244.

These were all remedied after service of formal notices by the owners, and it was not necessary for any work to be done by the Local Authority in default of the owners.

The remaining 88 defective dwelling houses were rendered fit in consequence of informal action by their Local Authority or their Officers.

No Closing Orders, conversion of houses to workshops, nor voluntary demolition of houses by owners, have occurred in the district during 1925.

The General housing conditions in the area are, on the whole, satisfactory, consisting of working class property, kept in fairly good condition. In certain parts of the district there is congestion, but there are no slums and no unhealthy areas.

The main defects found in unfit houses are Defective roofs, gutterings and spouts, damp walls, dirty inside walls and ceilings with defective plaster work, in some few cases due to neglectful landlords, and in other few cases due to dirty and careless tenants, but in the majority of cases due to the age of the property. As discovered, these defects are remedied under the powers given by the Public Health and Housing Acts.

There is undoubtedly a shortage of houses in the district, leading in consequence, to some Overcrowding. The children marry, and having no house to go to, they stay at home with their parents, and thus three generations of a family living in one house is quite a common occurrence. In odd cases, where the overcrowding has been wilfully due to taking in lodgers for whom there was no accommodation, we have demanded their removal, and successfully remedied the condition of affairs.

To meet the shortage of houses, the Council have now under contemplation a Housing Scheme for the erection of new houses in the district.

There are still some back-to-back houses in the district, but as they become vacant, they are broken through and converted into sanitary property with through ventilation.

A great improvement in housing conditions will follow the abolition of the Privy midden system and a general conversion to the Water Carriage drainage system.

There are no bye-laws dealing with Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc., and any difficulties arising in regard to these habitations are dealt with under the Public Health Acts. Bye-laws, revised in 1909, are enforced with regard to provision in new property of a separate yard, pantry accommodation, place for coals, W. C. closet in the yard, lack of which is a great source of trouble in the old property in the district, and in many cases could not be remedied without rebuilding.

## 5.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### (a) MILK SUPPLY—

The standard of quality of the Milk produced within or brought into the district is good, and the supply is adequate.

During the year 35 samples of Milk were taken by the County Police for examination, and all were certified as satisfactory, no action being necessary.

The Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops in the district, have been regularly inspected and the 1894 Regulations made under the order of the Local Government Board have been enforced.

The total number of cowkeepers on the Register is 7, and 29 inspections have been made during the year, of their premises.

The air space required for each cow is—

- (a) Where cows are habitually grazed ... .. 600 cubic feet.
- (b) Where cows are not habitually grazed... .. 800 cubic feet.

When a cow is suspected of suffering from any disease, the County Police arrange for a local Veterinary Surgeon to examine the animal.

There are 18 Milk Purveyors on the Register, and 15 of these have special Licences, issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923, for the sale of "Pasteurised" Milk, which, however, is not produced in the district, as there are no Pasteurising Plants licensed in Ince.

No "Grade A", nor "Certified" Milk is sold in the area.

### (b) MEAT—

All beasts slaughtered in the district are examined by the Inspector at the time of slaughter, and any meat condemned by him as unfit for human consumption is seized and buried in lime, six feet below the surface, in the refuse tip.

Local butchers were all visited and the Clauses of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924, explained to them. They are all complying satisfactorily with the Regulations and no meat is openly exposed in the district now.

There is no public slaughter house in the area, and only one private slaughter house licensed in December, 1925.



## PRIVATE SLAUGHTER HOUSES--

	In 1920.	In Jan. 1925.	In Dec. 1925.
Number licensed	—	—	1
Number registered	—	—	—

## (c) OTHER FOODSTUFFS—

There are 22 Bakehouses in Ince, all kept in satisfactory condition, and there is one Brawn Works, likewise kept in good order.

The amount of food condemned or surrendered during 1925 as unfit for human consumption was as follows :—

1. Tuberculous Carcases and parts ... 68 lbs. Liver ; and 22 lbs. Lungs.
2. Unwholesome Meat (not tuberculous) ... 442 lbs. Rabbit ; and 72 lbs. Brawn.
3. Other Foodstuffs ... 5½ lbs. Sardines ; and 4½ lbs. Condensed Milk.

Food samples are taken for analysis under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, by the County Police, and by the kindness of the Police Superintendent for the Division, I am able to show the following list of samples taken in Ince during 1925:

Whiskey	...	...	3.
Milk	...	...	35.
Coffee	...	...	6.
Tea	...	...	5.
Rice	...	...	2.
Margarine	...	...	4.
Butter	...	...	7.
Arrowroot	...	...	3.
Ground Ginger	...	...	6.
Cheese	...	...	3.
Jam	...	...	4.
White Pepper	...	...	5.
Lard	...	...	3.
Ground Almonds	...	...	2.
			88.

All the above samples were genuine.



## 6. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the last five years there has been a marked decrease in the incidence of Scarlet and Typhoid Fever. Pneumonia,—influenzal and primary,—has been prevalent throughout the period, and severe forms have been manifested in the winter months.

There have been fewer cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum lately, but on the other hand the last year or two has witnessed the arrival of Encephalitis Lethargica, 4 cases of which were notified in 1925, 3 of them proving fatal.

During the latter part of 1925, there was an epidemic of Whooping Cough, and an outbreak of mild Chicken Pox, the latter disease being made compulsorily notifiable from August 31st to the end of the year.

No Special Reports were made in 1925, under the Sanitary Officers Order 1922, and there was no necessity for School Closure.

A supply of Diphtheria Antitoxin is kept at the Surgery of the Medical Officer of Health, and is available at any time to local medical practitioners.

During 1925, Bacteriological examinations have been made at the Wigan Infirmary, for Ince patients, as follows: Throat Swabs 4; Blood 2; Faeces 1.

### DISINFECTION—

Number of Houses disinfected during 1925 — 116.

Number of Articles disinfected — 373.

Houses are disinfected by the methods of Formalin Spray or Sulphur, and it is the practice in the district to disinfect after Phthisis, but not as routine after Measles. The Apparatus for the disinfection of the Clothing, Bedding, etc., of patients not removed to Hospital, is situated in the grounds of the Isolation Hospital, and is a Steam Disinfecter.

There is a bath at the School Clinic for cases of school children whose uncleanness demands action, but disinfestation was not necessary in 1925.

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1925.

TABLE E.

Number of cases of Infectious Disease notified; number of Deaths from these Diseases; number of cases removed to hospital, and Deaths in hospital during the year 1925.

DISEASE.	Total Under													Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to district	Total deaths
	cases all ages	1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & over		
Scarlet Fever—	16	—	—	2	1	—	8	1	3	1	—	—	10	—	—
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup—	6	—	—	—	1	1	3	—	—	1	—	—	3	1	3
Enteric Fever (incl Paratyphoid)—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1
Acute <i>Primary</i> , and <i>Influenza</i> , Pneumonia—	95	11	15	10	6	6	11	5	3	12	3	10	3	—	54
Encephalitis Lethargica—	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	3
Dysentery—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas—	9	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	5	1	1	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis—	28	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	4	12	4	3	1	—	10
Other forms of Tuberculosis—	16	1	2	1	1	—	3	2	2	4	—	—	—	—	7
Chicken-pox—	12	3	—	—	—	2	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles (exclud'g German M.)—	Not Notifiable.														3
Whooping Cough—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Pemphigus Neonatorum—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
TOTALS.....	191	17	17	13	10	9	35	11	17	30	8	19	5	14	85

## TUBERCULOSIS—

Notification of Tuberculosis cases is quite satisfactory in the district, and there is no evidence of excessive incidence of Phthisis in any particular trade or occupation.

44 new cases of Tuberculosis were notified during 1925, and there were 17 deaths from the disease in its various forms; the subjoined Table shows the new cases and mortality in age groups.

T A B L E F .

### TUBERCULOSIS.

<i>Age Periods.</i>	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0— 1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
1— 5	0	0	1	3	0	0	1	1
5—10	0	1	3	0	0	0	2	0
10—15	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
15—20	2	2	1	1	0	1	0	2
20—25	2	3	1	1	1	0	0	0
25—35	4	3	2	0	1	3	0	0
35—45	2	2	0	0	1	1	0	0
45—55	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
55—65	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 & upwards	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Totals—	15	13	10	6	4	6	4	3
	28		16		10		7	

No action has been necessary, under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925, relating to tuberculous employees in the milk trade, nor under the Public Health Act, 1925, relating to the compulsory removal of tuberculous patients to hospital.

### 7.—MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Two Infant Welfare Clinics are held weekly on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2 to 4 p.m., at the Council Offices, a central position for Higher and Lower Ince, and there the babies are weighed and advice given to the mothers about themselves and their infants, by the Medical Officer and the Nurses.

Dried Milk is sold at the Clinics at cost price, and a Voluntary Ladies' Committee renders very valuable and kindly help in the work of the Clinics, and in addition raises money, from which necessitous cases have been relieved by grants of free milk and other help. I should like to take this opportunity of thanking the Ladies for their splendid help in this branch of our public health service.

There has been no special provision for expectant mothers, but I am always ready to give advice in any such case, at the Clinic, and where necessary, recommendation to a Women's Hospital is made.

## ATTENDANCES AT INFANT WELFARE CLINICS.

Attendances : Higher Ince, 2796 ; Lower Ince, 1388 ; TOTAL—4184.

New babies attending : From Higher Ince, 156 ; From Lower Ince, 99 ; TOTAL—255.

Illegitimate Children attending ... .. 6.

Deaths among Illegitimate Children attending 0.

Deaths under 12 months among Infants attending 26.

The homes are visited by the Health Visitor, and during 1925 Nurse Quarmby paid 505. first visits to new babies, and made 4349 Supervision Visits, giving advice as to the feeding and treatment of children up to the age of 5 years. Quite a large number of children well over the age of 12 months, are brought regularly to the Clinics.

Since the Medical Officer of Health is also School Medical Officer, a definite attempt is made to co-ordinate the work of Infant Welfare with that among the children of school age.

The provision of an extra Health Visitor, and closer co-operation with the local 'doctors in the nursing of sick children, will, I feel sure, help us considerably in our attempt to reduce the Infantile Mortality Rate of the district, while closer observations on cases of puerperal sepsis, ophthalmia neonatorum, etc., will reduce the mortality and the permanent injuries to health caused by these diseases.

Only one case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum was notified during 1925 ; the baby was removed to hospital, and was treated and cured without any impairment of Vision.

This—my first—Annual Report as Medical Officer, has been, as required by the Ministry of Health, a Survey Report on the District, and I cannot help noting, what is to my mind, the greatest Sanitary Requirement of the Area,—the Abolition of the Privy Midden System,—a reform which when accomplished, will make a tremendous difference to the health of the people of Ince.

In concluding this report, I have to thank the Officials of the Council, and the Staff of the Sanitary Department, and especially the Sanitary Inspector for valuable help and co-operation at all times, and to thank the members of the Sanitary Committee for their invariable courtesy towards me.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. H. POTTER,

Medical Officer of Health to the Ince U. D. C.

